



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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**For Immediate release**

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## **Legislators Introduce Family Medical Leave Insurance Act**

*Proposal gives working families much needed benefit to care for sick family member or themselves without having to give up pay*

Madison, WI – State Senator Janis Ringhand (D – Evansville) and Representative Sindy Pope (D – Cross Plains) introduced the Family Medical Leave Insurance Act (FMLIA). The Act creates a Family Medical Leave Insurance program completely paid for by employees. Under the program a participating employee is eligible to receive a percentage of their pay during the time they take family or medical leave from work. The program would not cost employers any money. Employees pay for the benefit by contributing a certain percentage of their check into a trust fund.

“I’ve had to take time off without pay to care for my son after he broke his leg. Luckily my husband had a good union job that could support our family. Far too many families live paycheck to paycheck and cannot afford to take any time off. The FMLIA will help many hard working Wisconsin families,” said Ringhand.

In addition, the Act seeks to expand Wisconsin’s current Family Medical Leave law by allowing employees to take family leave to care for anyone covered under the current law plus grandparents, grandchildren, siblings, and any eligible employee who has an eligible family member deployed overseas by the military.

“Our Family Medical Leave law needs updating to reflect the dynamics of modern families. Nationally, a growing number of employers and law-makers from both sides of the aisle have indicated support for allowing people to take paid leave from work under certain circumstances,” said Representative Pope.

California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island and Washington have already passed paid family medical leave laws and implementing one in Wisconsin is a priority of the Wisconsin Legislative Democrat’s Forward Together Agenda.

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